

**OFFICE ACTION**

1. Attached are comments by Claude Hamrick regarding the appropriateness of the final office actions submitted on 3/24/08. It appears that Mr. Hamrick is correct in noting the elastic sleeve is not in tension and therefore the previous action is vacated. While the case does not appear to be in condition for allowance, in the interest of fairness and avoiding an unnecessary filing of a Notice of Appeal, the time period has been restarted. Applicant should submit all comments through official channels from now on.

2. A detailed action will follow.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to ROBERT A. SICONOLFI at telephone number (571)272-7124.

/Robert A. Siconolfi/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3683